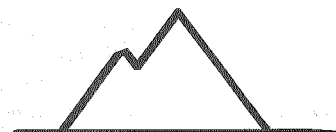


Mountain View



A newsletter by and for the Randolph Community, published by the Randolph Foundation

The Mount Crescent Water Company

By John Mudge

There might have been a centennial celebration in Randolph this year, but that will not be happening because there will be no centennial of the Mt. Crescent Water Company as the company no longer exists. Founded on March 13, 1907, the Mt. Crescent Water Company was perhaps the institution that made possible the summer cottages on Randolph Hill. Water from springs on Mt. Crescent was piped into a reservoir beside the trail leading up to Carlton Notch and from there water was piped to cottages on Randolph Hill and as far as Pasture Path, formerly Stearns Road. The Randolph Hill community would have been very different without this convenient source of water. There was never any shortage of water up there, but there were other problems.

At one time there were problems with bears. During the winter months bears would frequently destroy a small company shed. In the fall of 1956 the shed was rebuilt with long spikes driven through from the inside – points sticking out. This was apparently not an annoyance to the bears, for the following spring the walls of the spiky shed were thickly matted with clumps of bear fur– the bears having used the shed as a very convenient back-scratcher.

See "Water Company", page 6



The Pump House, built in 1938, next to one of the original springs. The missing boards had spikes in them to discourage the bears. Photo by Barbara Arnold.

The Trees in Our Forest and the Man Who Cares for Them

By Lydia Goetze

Driving along US Route 2 on a weekday in winter, almost half the traffic is logging trucks, full of logs or chips or returning empty for another load. Some of those logs are from the Randolph Community Forest.

Last August, forester Walt Wintturi and natural resource consultants Elise Lawson and John Severance led a tour of the Community Forest for interested Randolphians. Walt, John and Elise make up the Randolph Forestry Team, the professional forest managers employed by the Town to administer the woodlands under the direction of the Randolph Forest Commission and the Town's Planning Board. About 20 people came on the tour, including several members of the Forest Commission who were happy to answer questions and add to the discussion. We visited several areas in the Bowman timber sale as well as some areas off the Stag Hollow Road. Walt described the goals of the cuts we saw: to create stands of trees of different ages for future sustainable logging, to generate income for managing the forest, to produce employment and wood for traditional local industry, and to improve wildlife habitat. Some cuts were also planned to remove and salvage trees damaged in the ice storm of 1998. We learned the differences between clear cuts (the ones in our forest are small), patch cuts (even smaller), and over-story removal, and he talked about forest diversity and how to achieve it. Some of the income from the commercial logging operation will be used to fund wildlife habitat improvement. The Town has received a WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program) grant from the State but the reimbursement of 75% of costs comes only when the work is complete.

Walt, together with his colleagues, authored our forest management plan (with input from others in Randolph), and it's based on his deep knowledge of which kinds of trees grow where, and why, how to encourage a diverse forest that will yield well into the future, how to regenerate aspen groves for moose to browse and to hide nesting birds from their predators, how to create spruce corridors so deer can hide or move through the forest in winter, how to create "edges" which are highly

See "Forest", page 4

Meeting notices, inquiries, comments, and ideas are welcomed and encouraged. Please send materials for the *Mountain View* to Alison Tomlinson, 204 Durand Road, Randolph, NH 03593 or treehome@ne.rr.com by the 15th of the month preceding publication (publication is quarterly: September, December, April & June). The *Randolph Weekly* is published weekly in July & August. Send notices by Tuesday of each week to Gail Scott at 603-466-5498 (call or FAX), or gss@ncia.net, or 162 Randolph Hill Road, Randolph NH 03593. The *Blizzard* is published the first of each month except July and August. Please send all notices for the *Blizzard* to Barbara Arnold, 466-2438, barnold@ne.rr.com or 403 Randolph Hill Road, Randolph, NH 03593. *Blizzard* materials by the 24th of the preceding month. If you are not receiving the *Blizzard* and wish to, please let Barbara know. A grant from the Randolph Foundation makes all these publications possible.

Mountain View Publications

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Jackie Bowers Cross, Publisher
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Barbara Arnold, Design / Production

Town Directory

AMBULANCE 911

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (Chair, Ted Wier) 466-3970
meets at 7 PM the 3rd Thursday of the month.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN (Chair, Ken Lee) 466-2392
Secretary, Rodney Hayes; Treasurer Connie Chaffee
Meets at 7 p.m. at Town Hall every other Monday, call for schedule. 466-5771

BUILDING PERMITS. See Board of Selectmen

CEMETERY TRUSTEES James Penney, Jim Baldwin, & Suzanne Santos

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Chair, Jim Meiklejohn) 466-3818

DOG LICENSES See Town Clerk. Obtain or renew by the end of April.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - ALL ALARMS - CALL 911
Randolph Chief, Dana Horne

FOREST FIRE WARDEN (Rebecca Parker) Call for Burning Permits 466-2332

GRS COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD Meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of the month; location alternates between the 3 towns. Contact the SAU Office 466-3632

LIBRARY (Librarian, Yvonne Jenkins) phone July & August - 466-5408
Open July & Aug. - Mon. 7 - 9 p.m.; Wed. 10 - noon, 3-5 p.m.; Sat. 10 - noon;
open Sat. in June and Sept. 10 - noon; trustees meet the 3rd Mon. of each month

PLANNING BOARD (Chair, John Scarinza) 466-5775
Meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the first Thursday of the month.

PLATFORM TENNIS ASSOC. (President, Dave Tomlinson) 466-2150

POLICE (Randolph Chief, Alan Lowe) 466-3950

RANDOLPH CHURCH (Moderator William May)
Sunday morning services July & August (10:30 a.m.)

RANDOLPH COLLOQUY (Coordinator, Avery Post) 466-5063

RANDOLPH COMMUNITY FOREST COMMISSION (chair, John Scarinza) 466-5775
Meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the 1st Wednesday

RANDOLPH FOUNDATION (President, John Mudge)

RANDOLPH LIFE SQUAD — Call 911 in an emergency
Co-Directors Bill & Barbara Arnold 466-2438.

RANDOLPH MOUNTAIN CLUB (President, Jamie Maddock)

ROAD AGENT (Mike Gray) 586-7840

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST
Denise Demers, Michael Sewick & Lois Amirault

TAX COLLECTOR (Scott Robinson) by appointment; call the Town Hall 466-9856

TOWN CLERK (Anne Kenison) 466-2606
Town Hall hours: Mondays 9 - 11 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 - 9 p.m.

TOWN HALL (Secretary, Rodney Hayes) Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 466-5771

TRASH COLLECTION Must be at roadside by 7 a.m.
Trash - every Tuesday; Recycling, sorted & bagged - 1st Thursday of every month.

TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUND Judy Kenison, Michelle Cormier, Michael Sewick

Community Calendar

(NOTE: For recurring meeting schedules see "Town Directory" on the left)

April

22 Earth Day
23-27 School vacation

May

13 Mothers' Day
28 Memorial Day

June

8 Graduation, GRS and Berlin schools
15 Tentative last Day of School
17 Fathers' Day

Real Estate Transactions**October 20, 2006**

From: Edwin Richardson
To: George G. Stitt & Rhonda George Stitt
Warranty deed

November 27, 2006

From: Rebecca and Wayne Parker
To: John K. Scarinza
Warranty deed

January 19, 2007

From: Mary Gail Scott
To: Mary Gail Scott, as Trustee of the Mary Gail Scott 1996 Revocable Trust u/d/t dated 2/14/1996
Quitclaim deed

January 23, 2007

From: Muriel K. Richardson
To: Edwin H. Richardson
Corrective quitclaim

January 23, 2007

From: Edwin Richardson
To: Stephen F. Harris & Jean A. Chambers
Warranty deed

Randolph Remembers

Rhoda Bernstein

October 7, 1931-February 9, 2007

Rhoda Bernstein of Venice, Florida died on February 9, 2007 after a courageous and lengthy fight with cancer.

Rhoda attended Friends Seminary in New York City and graduated in 1949. She then went to Middlebury College where she majored in history and political science and received her B.A. in 1953. Subsequently, in 1977, she received her master's degree from the University of New Mexico in educational administration.

Rhoda was the Registrar of the State University of New York at Binghamton, New York and later Registrar of Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

Rhoda was involved with many associations, including The League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women. She was active in Meals on Wheels, Literacy Volunteers and various other groups. One of her prime interests was the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Venice, in which church she had been very active for many years.

Rhoda retired to Florida after she left Bowdoin and had lived in Venice since then. She retained her love of Randolph, New Hampshire, where she had spent many summers in the family cottage.

Rhoda's family, all of whom were very close to her, loved her and will miss her dearly, are her brother, Harvey Folks Zimand, and her nieces, Patricia Folks Carpenter and Stephanie Zimand Plexico.

There was a Memorial Service at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice, 1971 Pinebrook Road, Venice, Florida 34292 on February 25th at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Rhoda may be made to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice at the above address.

Rev. Sarah A. Edwards

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Alexander Edwards died Thursday, December 14, at the St. Mary Home in West Hartford after a lengthy illness. She was 85. She was born in New York City on February 17, 1921, the daughter of James and Hortense Alexander. She grew up in Scarsdale, New York.

Sally received her bachelor's degree *cum laude* from Bryn Mawr College in 1943, and a Master of Divinity degree *cum laude* from Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 1950. Hartford Seminary awarded her an S.T.M. degree in Systematic Theology in 1966, and a Ph.D. in 1974.

Sally was ordained by the Connecticut Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches in a service held at the Litchfield Congregational Church in April, 1951. This was a pioneering event, since few women were in the ministry at that time.

She served as an interim minister at several Congregational churches in northwest Connecticut. In addition, she was a popular keynote speaker at church conferences around the nation. From 1959 to 1966 she was a member of the Stewardship Council of the United Church of Christ. During the 1960's she served on the Board of Union Theological Seminary in New York City, the first woman to do so. In 1968, she was a press representative of the *Hartford Times* at the World Council of Churches assembly in Uppsala, Sweden.

Sally was an adjunct professor of New Testament at Hartford Seminary for 25 years. She is fondly remembered by her students as a teacher of New Testament Greek, and a scholar who specialized in the Gospel of John. She was the co-author with the late Robert Berkey of two books: *Christological Perspectives* (1982), and *Christology in Dialogue* (1993). In addition, Rev. Edwards led a popular ecumenical study group for women in the Hartford area known as "the Bible Ladies." She also taught Bible study classes at the First Church of Christ in Farmington, where she was a member.

Sally was predeceased by her husband of 58 years, the Rev. Robert L. Edwards, who was Senior Minister of Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford from 1956-1980. She is survived by a brother, Heywood (Bea) Alexander of Hanover, New Hampshire; a daughter, Edith Heywood Edwards; a son, the Rev. James D. Edwards of Stow, Ohio; a grandson, Lansing C. Edwards of Brookville, Ohio; and many nieces and nephews.

Sally came to Randolph with her parents for the first time when she was eight years old. Like the rest of her family, she was captivated by the beautiful mountains that make Randolph such a special place.

She and Bob were married in the Randolph Church on September 6, 1947. And for the rest of her life, Randolph was

See "Sally Edwards", next page

Sally Edwards, continued ...

the place she most wanted to be in the summer. She and Bob made many summer trips overseas. But they always saved a few weeks at the end of the summer to be in Randolph. She and Bob vacationed there for more than 50 years.

Sally was a highly visible and very enthusiastic member of the Randolph community. She preached every year at the Randolph Church. She was a gifted actor in the charades at the Randolph picnic. She and

Bob often led the Sunday evening hymn sings at the Playhouse or the Sappington's library. And she made countless climbs with members of the Randolph community.

A memorial service for Sally's Randolph friends will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2007 at the Randolph Church. Internment will follow the service at the Randolph Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford CT 06105; or to First Church of Christ, 75 Main Street, Farmington CT 06032.

"Forest" from page 1

desirable habitat for many species. He proclaimed that 2006 would be a "good beech mast year", meaning that there would be plenty of food for bears, and he showed us how to identify bear claw marks on beeches that had been heavy with nuts in previous years.

This was the first time I had explored a logging operation with some understanding of its ecological intent, and Walt's enthusiasm made me curious to watch the loggers in action and to follow the path of the wood from forest to endpoint. That was not to happen until midwinter in 2007 when snow would protect the frozen ground from the machinery. Hicks Logging of Jefferson is doing the logging, and at various times Forrest Hicks, Jr. has employed men from the surrounding communities of Berlin, Jefferson, Groveton, and Whitefield. Pulp logs (about 60% of this cut) are trucked to the chipping mill (R.J. Enterprises) in Shelburne and the chips go on to the New Page paper mill in Rumford, Maine, where they are turned into high quality paper, the likes of which is used in magazines such as the *National Geographic*. The higher quality hardwood saw logs (40% of the cut) go the HHP sawmill in Henniker, NH, and are used for building and finish work. Walt emailed me when the logging resumed this February, and I soon found myself tracing the logs' route in reverse as I headed for Randolph from Maine.

Almost before I knew it, I was following Walt on snowshoes through the hardwood forest (sugar maple, yellow birch, beech, ash, and aspen) in the afternoon sunshine of late winter with glimpses of the snow-covered peaks. (It reminded me again why we wanted to preserve the forest from development into house lots.) Logging had resumed, and he wanted to be sure the paths he indicated for the Timbco feller-buncher (nick-named "the Brontosaurus") were clear and adequate. He also wanted to talk with the men on the job, for it's his responsibility to see that the logging is done in accordance with the stipulations of the sale contract to

accomplish our management goals.

It took only a few minutes for me to see that I was being guided by a man who knows and loves the woods. "My whole professional life has been a labor of love for me," Walt said as he pointed out an ancient hemlock, a maple wounded by the ice storm, some fisher tracks, a place where a hawk's wing had brushed the snow. He wanted to remove certain trees and to save specific others, not only from being cut but also from being harmed during the harvest. He moved through the forest, paint gun in hand, no paint-ball warrior he, but a friend to each and every tree. He cruised this section in the summer of 2004, but wasn't aware at the time that it would be harvested by "the Brontosaurus", so he goes back to make sure he has laid out paths for the large (yet surprisingly maneuverable) machinery. From time to time he pauses to mark another tree. He also stopped to talk with Steve Ramsay on the chain skidder, who was preparing the logging road for the feller-buncher's arrival in the morning.

The next morning was crisp and cool, and Steve Ramsay on the skidder and Dennis "Bugsy" Walter on the feller-buncher had been working since sunrise. Walt talked with them about his plans and requirements for how the logging was to be conducted before striding off on snowshoes ahead of the roaring Brontosaurus, gently leading it upslope as it made the path it would later harvest down, shearing off trees as large as 20 inches, grabbing them and laying them down behind it to wait for the skidder to drag them out to the landing. There were several feet of snow on the ground to protect it from the effects of the machines, but now and then a wet spot emerged, and the men had to protect the forest floor and the watercourse with bridge panels, culverts and slash. This new machinery is expensive to buy and reduces the number of men who work in the woods, but it makes the work far safer than chainsaw work, since the logger is in a protected cabin with good visibility.

By the time you read this, this winter's harvest of 78 acres will be complete and the Bowman cut will be finished. The landing, where the logs were stacked to be loaded onto trucks, will have been graded and seeded to make an opening in the forest that is congenial to wildlife. The road and access paths will be left in good shape. Patches of about half an acre will have been opened up to let sunlight reach the forest floor, encouraging the growth of shade intolerant birch and poplar, surrounded by a mix of ash, sugar maple and beech. The best of the older trees will have more space and less competition. More than 168 acres out of the 10,192 acres in the forest will be on their way to making the whole forest healthier.

And in the meantime, Walt Wintturi has already cruised for the next timber sale with his handheld computer to help him estimate board feet, species diversity and yield. He prepared and sent out a prospectus and received bids. On his recommendation, the Forest Commissioners awarded the contract. Last fall that second sale was completed, and probably next winter Forrest Hicks will be working in the heavily ice-damaged area north of the Randolph Hill Road and Walt Wintturi will be checking to see that the job is well done. If you have a chance to go out with Walt this summer to see our working forest in action, take it – he'll share his loving knowledge of the woods with you, too.



Dennis Walter and Walt Wintturi.
Photo by Lydia Goetze.



Walt Wintturi.
Photo by Lydia Goetze.



Logging Road looking west toward
Lookout Ledge. Photo by Barbara
Arnold

"Water Company", from page 1 ...

The Mt. Crescent Water Company was the only publicly traded company ever head-quartered in Randolph. For most of its existence it was a corporation with stockholders and an annual meeting that was held each summer in the "Playhouse." Being a corporation with shares of stock occasionally required that the stock be transferred from one person to another. Since cottages seldom changed ownership on Randolph Hill this was a very infrequent occurrence, but it did happen. My father's files contain the following correspondence with Bishop Henry Washburn from whom my parents purchased our lot in 1956. This is how you buy and sell stock in a Randolph corporation:

May 1, 1957

Dear Dr. Mudge – Recently I received a report to the stockholders of the Mt. Crescent Water Company which reminds me that I have two shares which I would like to sell, particularly as no dividends have been paid for quite a number of years! When we bought our property on Randolph Hill we were told that each landowner was supposed to have a share or two of the water company's stock and I think that is probably still the thinking of the directors of the company. Perhaps somebody else has gotten to you first, but if you would care to buy my two shares, I can be prevailed upon to sell them. I paid \$40 a share and apparently that is the price which is now being asked. Of course if for any other reason you are not interested, just toss this letter into the wastepaper basket. With kind regards, Benjamin M. Washburn.

June 2, 1957.

Dear Bishop Washburn – I am sorry for the delay in replying to your letter about the two shares of stock in the Mt. Crescent Water Co. As a house-owner and water user I am sure that I should own some stock in the local company and would be delighted to purchase yours if you can delay the date of sale till the end of the summer. As you know, things move slowly in the North woods and it is not exactly certain at this point just how much our house is going to cost. I am therefore not anxious to commit myself further until I get the house all straightened out... –Very sincerely, Gilbert H. Mudge.

June 5, 1957

Dear Dr. Mudge – Thank you for your letter. I promise not to sell the two shares of Mt. Crescent Water Co. stock to anyone else before next autumn! I might add that regardless of what happens in the stock market I won't increase the price which I gave you! I am inter-

ested to hear that you are hoping that your new house will be completed this summer. You will be much more fortunate than we were when we built. Work started on the foundations one year in July and when we went up to Randolph the following July they were still working on it, though we did move in at the end of the week! With kind regards, Benjamin M. Washburn.

April 14, 1958

Dear Dr. Mudge – Some little time ago I wrote you asking whether as a probable permanent resident in Randolph, at least for a part of the year, you would be willing to buy the two shares of stock of the Mt. Crescent Water Company of which I would like to dispose. If I remember correctly, you replied that while it was not at that time convenient for you to purchase the shares, it is my recollection that you said you would very likely be willing to do so somewhat later. ...Of course I know that the stock in the Water Company is not at all attractive as an investment. This I realized when I bought it, but at the time I understood that owners of property on the Hill were expected to be among its stockholders. ...I do hope some time to see your home and the remnants of our garden. With all good wishes, Benjamin M. Washburn.

May 1, 1958

Dear Bert – Your letter was received just before Hortense and I came to New York for a few days... There is no red tape involved in your buying Bishop Washburn's Water Company stock. I am glad that as a property owner, you will have an interest in the company. He should endorse the certificate on the back, filling in the name or names in which the new certificate is to be registered... If you will then send the certificate to me, a new certificate will be issued and returned to you. No transfer stamps are necessary, and there is no expense in connection with the issuance of a new certificate. The company has always sold its stock at \$40 a share. It has a much larger book value, but no dividend has been paid for years because all funds arising from earnings and depreciation are being put back into the property (i.e. pipe replacement and extensions). There is no "market value" for the stock in the usual sense. When someone buys from another owner rather than the company, it does not seem unreasonable to me that the price should be less than the issuing price of \$40, simply because it is very hard to find a buyer for non-dividend paying share of a very small company. But please do not quote me on this. Welcome to the Water Company family... –Very sincerely, Jim Alexander.

May 19, 1958

Dear Bishop Washburn – I have received the official word from Jim Alexander as to just how one transfers stock of the Mt. Crescent Water Co... ..then send it to Mr. Alexander who will issue a new certificate and return it to me. No fees. No red tape. No transfer stamps! Thus please find my check enclosed for 2 shares at \$40 per share... Very sincerely yours, Gilbert H. Mudge.

May 22, 1958

Dear Dr. Mudge – Many thanks for your letter and the check in payment of the exceedingly valuable stock of the Mt. Crescent Water Co. I am enclosing the stock certificate duly endorsed. In due time you may be fully rewarded by being elected a director of the company! ...With kind regards, Benjamin M. Washburn.

June 2, 1958

Dear Bert – Here is the Water Company certificate properly transferred to your name and Eleanor's. We are having beautiful weather here now... With kindest regards, Sincerely, Jim (James S. Alexander).

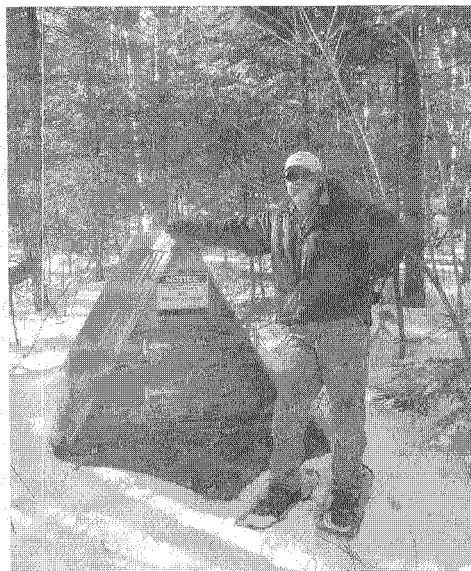
The cottage was built and there were no problems with the water. Each year the water was turned on, I think by Morrison Reed, before the family arrived for the summer, and then he would turn it off at the end of the summer. This was the standard procedure for all of the cottages up there. But times were to change. In 1984 some regulations required new ultraviolet sterilizing equipment. That might have been fine had the cost approximated what was budgeted. However, as is the case with many "corporate expenditures" and "budgets," things went wrong. The Water Company budgeted \$3,000, but the equipment cost \$6,000 which necessitated an application to the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission for an "emergency" 18% rate increase— \$10 per household.

In 1988 there was to be another change when the Water Company was converted from a public utility to a Cooperative Association. Fortunately Bill Pfeffer was willing to serve as President of this new Association just as he had been President of the Water Company. However the Cooperative Association was not to last for long as new regulations would mean more problems in 1989 and 1990. The first big event of 1989 was a break in the water main near the Eitel's driveway when New England Telephone was using dynamite in the course of replacing utility poles. Then came new environmental regulations and the Cooperative Association was told that the ultraviolet treatment was

no longer acceptable.

There were now three options for the sixty-five homes served by the Water Company: First, the reservoir could be lined and the system up-graded at an estimated cost of \$329,770, second, a new water supply could be developed, and third, each of the cottages, and by then some winter homes, could drill their own wells. By May 1990 a decision had been made to dissolve the Association in favor of drilling private residential wells during the summer of 1990. That was a busy and noisy summer on Randolph Hill as well drilling companies moved their equipment from one cottage to another and new wells were drilled. The first issue of the *Mountain View* in September 1990 had a list of the wells drilled that summer, forty-four houses reporting. Depths ranged from 100 to 925 feet and water was from 1/2 to 100 gallons per minute. As of December 1, 1990 operations of the Water Company had ceased. In 1992 Bill Pfeffer sent one last letter to the stockholders and in it he correctly wrote: "Any regrets we have over the demise of the Mount Crescent Water are tempered by the knowledge of the important role it played in the development of our community."

My parent's stock certificate is now framed and hangs beneath the old "Regulator" clock that once kept time in the Mt. Crescent House lobby— reminders of two important Randolph institutions and a by-gone era.



Bill Arnold next to George's Spring, one of 4 springs supplying the current reservoir. Jack Boothman was the Water Company Superintendent in the 50's. Bill was appointed to serve with Jack in the 70's and has been taking care of the system since Jack's death in 1983. The system continues to serve 7 houses. Photo by Barbara Arnold.

INTRODUCTION

Town Meeting, March 13, 2007

By David L. Willcox, Town Moderator

They hung Reverend George Burroughs on August 19, 1692. As the most prominent victim of the Salem Witch trials his case has been a focal point for historians struggling to explain this strange episode. While debates go on, most now agree that the crisis was not born of random hysteria but of widespread fear exacerbated by spite and jealousy. There is even evidence suggesting that Burroughs' death was a revenge killing.

The existence of witches was recognized in the late seventeenth century, but so were the dangers of making false accusations or of misdiagnosing symptoms of spells. Reverend Richard Bernard's 1617 book, *Guide to Grand-Jury Men*, listed grounds for suspecting a person was a witch, but noted that these were presumptions only which needed testing. He recommended that suspected witches and witnesses should be questioned "*apart, & not in the hearing one of another.*" A hundred years would pass before the right to an impartial trial became enshrined in the Constitution. But the admonitions of Reverend Bernard, rudimentary and limited as they were, foreshadowed that right and represent its colonial witchcraft equivalent.

The Salem crisis was unusual in several significant ways. Typically, such accusations implicated one or two people and were contained within a single community. These cases engulfed the whole of Essex County, Massachusetts. Charges were leveled against 31 people of whom 21 were executed. Nor were the cases handled in the customary manner. The judges rarely observed Reverend Bernard's advice about testing presumptions and questioning witnesses separately. Most proceedings were held in open court, in front of an excited and vociferous public with witnesses graphically demonstrating the effects of the evil spells afflicting them. Unusual also was the way the community elders heeded the claims of young women and servant maids. As one writer puts it, "the young women who instigated the Salem witchcraft outbreak were precisely the sort of people commonly given short shrift by the high-status men who served as magistrates..."

She suggests an explanation: the people of Essex County were living in terror. Since 1676 the settlements to the north in Maine and New Hampshire had been in an almost constant state of war with the Wabanaki Indian tribes. Settlements were razed and massacres carried out by both sides, but Essex County resi-

dents only heard the settlers' versions. Before newspapers, news circulated by rumor and gossip, which spread rapidly if not always very accurately. It became the accepted wisdom that the Wabanakis were agents of the Devil.

George Burroughs was widely respected as a minister and a generous man who gave a large tract of land for public use. There is evidence, however, that in private he had a cruel sense of humor which manifested itself in practical jokes at the expense of those he felt to be his intellectual inferiors, including his wives and, presumably, any maidservants in his employ. Burroughs was preaching in the little settlement at Casco, today the site of Portland, Maine, when it was attacked in August, 1676. He evacuated his flock to an island offshore, saving many, and returned with other settlers two years later. But in 1680 he made the fatal mistake of moving to Salem Village, a community riven with factions and feuds, into which the new minister was inevitably drawn. He only stayed there for three years before returning to Casco, but it was time enough to make a bitter enemy out of Thomas Putnam, a leader of one of the factions.

Burroughs was still in Casco when it was again attacked in September of 1689. This time reinforcements were sent and the town was saved. But a fierce battle took place and many residents died, among them, very probably, the parents of sixteen year old Mercy Lewis.

The Lewis family was an important part of the early Casco community. But the Wabanaki attacks had decimated it. Mercy's grandparents, four aunts and uncles and several cousins had died in 1676, while the 1689 raid took her parents and wiped out the family fortunes. Mercy went from being a minor heiress to an orphaned maidservant. She worked at first in the Burroughs' household, where she may have fallen afoul of the minister's perverse humor, and then she moved to Salem Village and into the employment of Burroughs' old nemesis, Thomas Putnam. Historians speculate that she was obsessed with the fact that Burroughs had survived the attacks on Casco relatively unscathed, while her family had not.

On April 30, 1692, Thomas Putnam formally accused George Burroughs of witchcraft, telling the local magistrates that his daughter ...*had seen the apparition of a minister of God who tortured her and tried*

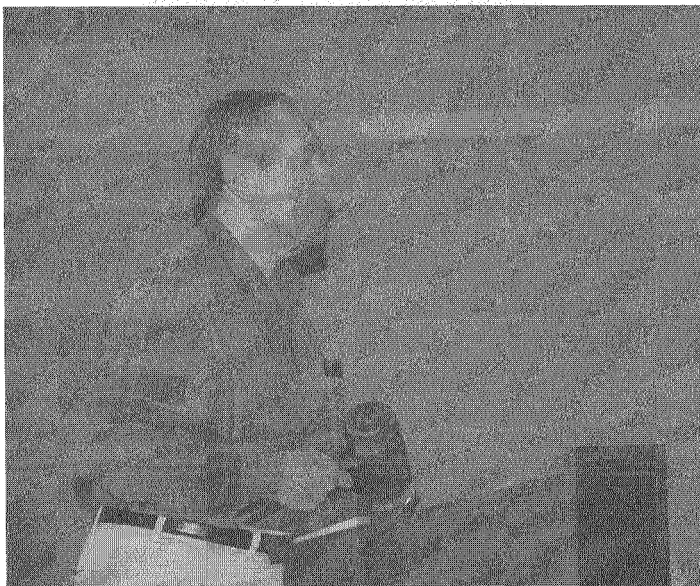
Continued from previous page

to force her to write in his book. When she asked him his name he told her it was George Burroughs... In the opinion of one scholar: "The witchcraft hysteria provided the Putnams with an opportunity to ... extract revenge on those who had offended their family...Whether [or not] Ann Putnam was directly instructed in her accusations by her father ...is still much debated." But another author points the finger in another direction, saying; "...the emphasis in Ann's vision on events in Maine, especially those related to the Indian war...in late 1688 and early 1689, strongly suggests Mercy Lewis's influence on the impressionable younger girl."

Ann Putnam was the prime witness against Burroughs. She testified that Burroughs' first two wives had appeared to her in a vision and accused the minister of murdering them. Then, he too appeared and admitted the crimes. Mercy Lewis also testified, saying Burroughs' incarnation had tried to bribe her; *he told me I should not see his Two wives ...because I should not witness against him.* That sealed the fate of George Burroughs.

This story haunts our history; a recurrent specter of civil liberties sacrificed to fear and it reminds us that when that happens, great wrongs may be perpetrated in the name of the law.

And so, come Halloween, as you drive through streets teeming with witches, remember they too have rights. Drive carefully.



Moderator Dave Willcox at Town Meeting.
Photo by Edith Tucker.

Town Warrant Results

Submitted by Anne Kenison

Articles #2-12 passed by majority vote.

Article #13 stated: "Authorize the Selectmen to sell the 6 acre parcel of land shown on Randolph Tax Map R15 as Lot 5 and located on the north side of US Route 2 (east of Farrar's) acquired by tax collector's deed and previously held as a possible site for the municipal building complex subsequently built on Pinkham "B" Road. Such authority to continue until rescinded." The majority voted no on Article #13.

Article #14 was amended to state "Raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the purpose of building, renovating or furnishing and equipping the Randolph Town Hall..." The majority voted yes on the amended Article #14.

Articles #15-23 passed by majority vote.

Article #24 passed and stated "Designate as Town Forest land a 5.0 acre parcel of land abutting the Town Forest to the south of Castlevue Rock, shown on Randolph tax map R10 as lot 32, purchased from David Dernbach with the contributions of many generous citizens. This parcel to be known as "The Boothman Tract".

Articles #25-27 passed by majority vote. Article #28 was skipped over.

Article #29 was amended to read: "Accept the sum of all money, cash and pledges, raised by the Friends of the Randolph Public Library for the construction of a new public library or for other library purposes to the extent authorized by the donor(s) of such funds, said sum to be held and administered by the Library Trustees." The majority voted yes.

Article #30 to transact any additional business included Jim Baldwin's comments on his efforts to put a historic marker at the Ravine House Site; Angela Brown stated that she had some DVDs that people could have to view the schools' plans; Kathleen Kelley and Craig Burcalow mentioned that there would be a spaghetti dinner that would be informational about the upcoming bond issue for the renovations of the schools; Mark MacDonald spoke about how he would like to know exactly how much out of pocket it would cost us for the bond to renovate the schools and was finally given an answer of 28.5 million dollars; State Representative Bill Remick called to say the State's Finance Committee would be meeting at the WMRHS on March 15th to present the budget and to answer any questions and comments from the public.

Town Meeting Votes To Accept Free Library

By Jim Meiklejohn

At Town Meeting on March 13th, Randolph voters approved the warrant article to accept the money raised by The Friends of the Randolph Public Library to build a new town Library. To date, a grand total of \$405,831 has been raised

At this writing, gifts and pledges have been received from 202 individuals and families plus contributions from 12 businesses and foundations. Many have expressed their amazement at the broad spectrum of support from voters and taxpayers, as well as other friends of Randolph, who believe in the worthiness of the project. It is rewarding to know that so many people see a new year round library as an asset for the town.

This year's town warrant had 29 articles and the library was 29th. Nancy Penney, chair of the Future Library Plans Committee made an excellent presentation, reminding the large crowd that Randolph used to have a year round library until 1932 when the books were moved from Town Hall to the old school house. After a quick review of the architectural plans and some discussion, a paper ballot was taken and the vote was a resounding 73 YES and 43 NO.

The important next step is that now the Library building can join with the Town Hall expansion in a joint construction project and significant dollars will be saved through economies of scale. The construction contract is likely to be signed about May 1st with Tom Wallace AIA as the architect and Glen Builders of North Conway doing the construction.

The combined buildings will prove to be the core of Randolph - a center of community activity with space for large and small meetings, offices for the selectmen, town clerk, and tax collector, library, lectures and programs, art shows, book sales, Colloquy and other town gatherings.

Library Friends Events

In February, Randolph resident Howie Wemyss, general manager of the Mt. Washington Auto Road, presented a very entertaining pictorial review of the history of the Glen House and the Carriage Road from its building through its auto racing activities.

In March, Sarah Clemmitt organized a team of Friends to have an afternoon of sliding on the Alexanders' hill followed by a bonfire and chili cookout in Doug Mayer's backyard.

GRS Cooperative School District Election Results

Submitted by Anne Kenison, Town Clerk

Moderator	Lee F. Carroll
"At Large" Shelburne School Board	Gregory T. Corrigan
Randolph School Board	Angela F. Brown

Addendum: All bond articles to fund the renovations / repairs of the schools were defeated at the GRS School meeting held on 3/21/07.



Nancy Penney speaking about the library at Town Meeting. Photo by Edith Tucker.

Building Permits

#06-16 Edward Blatchford will remove a cottage and restore site to field.

Building Permits

#06-16 Edward Blatchford will remove a cottage and restore site to field.

REMINDER

Randolph property owners are responsible for ensuring that they or their builders receive any necessary permits before beginning any construction. Building permits must be approved by the Selectmen. The Selectmen need time to review all permits, so please remember to submit them early enough to allow that process.

Glacial Melt Causes Seas to Rise

By Laura Snider

Melting mountain glaciers will contribute to rising sea levels more than the giant ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica in the next century, according to new research presented by a professor at the University of the Colorado.

Tad Pfeffer, a researcher at CU's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, estimates that 400 billion tons of ice – nearly equal to the volume of Lake Erie – is shed by smaller, mountain glaciers each year. The amount of ice dumped into the oceans by Antarctica and Greenland combined is 250 billion tons.

Pfeffer presented his findings Monday, December 11, 2006 at the meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco. Swelling oceans are a predicted side effect of global warming that could have catastrophic consequences for coastal cities around the world. Greenland and Antarctica have gotten most of the attention in recent research. For example, if the entire ice sheet covering Greenland melts, sea levels would rise 21 feet.

The problem, according to Pfeffer, is that in the next 50 to 100 years, Greenland and Antarctica will be slowly melting away while mountain glaciers shrink at alarming speeds.

"The small glaciers have been very neglected," Pfeffer said. "Greenland and Antarctica really stand out for people because of their size. In the long run, certainly Greenland and Antarctica are going to be important, but Antarctica isn't really kicking in yet."

Inventorying small glaciers and ice caps for the research was no small task. Pfeffer's team used satellite imagery to calculate the total area covered by hundreds of thousands of glaciers sprinkled throughout the mountain ranges of the world from Nepal to Chile to Alaska. Then Pfeffer used a mathematical "scaling" process to determine the total volume of ice.

As the world continues to warm, glaciers will eventually disappear from mountain peaks, perhaps by the next century. Pfeffer's new work agrees with research by Ohio State University glaciologist Lonnie Thompson, who has predicted the disappearance of the snows of Kilimanjaro by 2015 and the glaciers of Glacier National Park by 2040. But after these glaciers dry up, sea levels will still continue to rise. "Greenland and Antarctica will keep right on going," he said.

Reprinted courtesy of the Boulder Camera website.

Randolph Colloquy--- A New Look

Submitted by Bea Alexander

This summer the Randolph Colloquy will move to a new format, hoping to reach a broader section of the Randolph Community. We are excited about this and hope that you will be too.

We are planning three lectures to take place on Friday evenings, July 20th, August 3rd and August 24th. There will be two book discussions. These will each meet at both day and evening hours, one in July and one in August.

Our first Friday evening speaker on July 20th is Jeffrey Lent, who will speak on his book *Lost Nation*. Jeffrey, who lives in Tunbridge, Vermont, says, "Writing *Lost Nation* was first and foremost an act of homage to perhaps the last great unsung portion of the northeast."

Our second Friday lecture on August 3rd, is with Tom Kiernan. He comes to us with the help of the Maddock family. Tom is the President of the National Parks Conservation Association, an independent nonprofit organization that defends and protects America's national parks.

Finally, on August 24th, we will hear Jim Schley. Jim, who came to New England in 1975 to attend Dartmouth College, is a man of many talents. A poet, editor and publisher, he is currently the curator and conference director at the Frost Place Museum in Franconia. He will speak on the extraordinary "stamina" of poet Robert Frost's literary work, with particular emphasis on Frost's intensely productive years spent in Franconia.

Our two discussion books both deal with Afghanistan. The first is *The Kite Runner*, the powerful story of a man who grew up in the last days of the monarchy just before its invasion by Russian forces. The second is *The Storyteller's Daughter*, a book of non-fiction. It tells of a woman who grew up in London and wishes to find the reality of her father's memories of his homeland ---its beauty and the nobility of the people.

We have worked hard to bring about this new format for the Randolph Colloquy. Books and related materials will be available at Wonderland Bookstore and at the Randolph Library. We will take time at the end of the summer for evaluation in order to plan for the following year.

RMC News

As the snows melt from RMC's paths, the club's attention naturally turns towards another season of activities on the trails. RMC's big news, of course, is the completion of Stearns Lodge, which is now in use by our spring caretaker, Sally Manikian. Photos of the completed interior are available on the RMC web site, at randolphmountainclub.org. On the outside, we still have some finish grading to accomplish, tent platforms to move from the Jones Cottage site, and a variety of other projects to get the lodge ready for full summer use by caretakers and trail crews. However, it is already clear that the building has turned out magnificently. Thanks to continuing gifts, the club was able to side the building with cedar shingles, install oak kitchen cabinets, use sturdy pine on the walls in place of dry wall, and fully insulate the building-- and still be left with a \$30,000 capital reserve fund. Thank you to all who have supported this project so generously from the outset!

The RMC looks forward to a great, celebratory day on Sunday July 15th, to commemorate the opening of Stearns Lodge. Save the date! A variety of events are now in the planning stages. Watch the RMC web site and, later this summer, the *Randolph Weekly*, for full details.

On our camps front, things are plugging along as usual. We are well into the spring season, and the weather is letting us know it with some great sunny days and lots of snow melt. We do not quite have daisies poking through the snow pack at Gray Knob yet, but mother nature is letting us know that summer is right around the corner. Taking care of our camps this spring is Sally Manikian who is a New Hampshire native and comes to us with lots of caretaking experience. She is enjoying her time up high. Stop by and pay her a visit if you get the chance.

The summer season, as always will be a busy one. While we currently have no big projects on the slate, our usual maintenance of the buildings and composting toilets will keep the caretakers occupied. We'll see you up there!

We're pleased this year to have four returning trail crew members, plus the expertise of returning Field Supervisor Chris Fithian, who descends back to Randolph valley from a winter as caretaker of Hermit Lake Shelter in Tuckerman Ravine. There will be several interesting trails projects this summer. On the White Mountain National Forest, we'll be finishing the second of two years of work on the Amphibrach, with

the crew focusing on the upper section of trail between Cold Brook and the Pentadoi. The crew will also spend two weeks on another section of the National Forest-- right at the Pond of Safety itself, where the last 100 yards of the Four Soldiers Path will receive a sturdy rock staircase, step stones and other work to stabilize the short, steep descent. In Randolph, a crew will be finishing a two year project, working on the Diagonal, Wood Path and EZ Way, installing rock steps, new bog bridges and drainage structures. It's notable that two of these trails-- EZ Way and Wood Path-- currently have no drainages at all, very much a rarity in this day and age of concern over trail erosion.

This fall, RMC is pleased to be able to field a small crew that will work in September and October, on the section of Lowe's Path above treeline. This crew, funded entirely by the US Forest Service and a grant to RMC from the Waterman Fund, will repair cairns, construct drainages and close in "trail threading" that's created by hikers choosing alternate routes, where the path is not clear.

As for the schedule this year, the 4th of July tea will be on Wednesday the 4th of July, the Annual meeting will be on Saturday the 11th of August and the picnic and charades will be on the following Saturday, August 18th. Blake Strayhorn and as always Jack Stewart will be organizing the weekly hikes, please check the *Mountain View*, the *Randolph Weekly* or the RMC website for where the Tuesday and Thursday hikes are going. We will be having the usual favorites, however if someone has an idea for a different type of trip please contact Blake Strayhorn; new trips and leaders are always welcome. The club has many activities this summer, come on out and meet some other members of the RMC.

Work trip coordinators Matt Schomburg and Mike Micucci are very excited about the coming season. A new format is being offered and the brand new Stearns Lodge will be showcased as part of each work trip. Each of five work trips will begin at 9 AM at the RMC Claus Goetze workshop, where the day will be mapped out and tools and coffee and donuts will be distributed. As in previous years, there will be a volunteer work trip leader/contact person as well as a member from the RMC trail crew who will offer his or her knowledge and advice during the trip. Please bring a lunch, plenty of water, work gloves and clothing appropriate for the anticipated conditions. For a checklist of suggested items contact your trip leader or Mike or

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"RMC" from page 12

Matt. What is expected to be the highlight of each work trip will come when the work is done. Then the grill will be fired up and a BBQ will be offered at the new Stearns Lodge, along with a tour of this fabulous new facility. Volunteers might also meet some of the rest of the crew.

FMI and to sign up for a work trip, please phone or e-mail the Work Trip Coordinators: Mike Micucci at 466 - 5050 (E-mail mikemoriah@yahoo.net or 101moriah@verizon.net) or Matthew Schomburg at 449 - 2086 (E-mail cooscoos1112@yahoo.com.) It is perfectly OK to sign up for more than one work trip but we strive to keep group size, including leaders below 10 individuals. We look forward to seeing you this summer for a work trip.

Happy trails!

Saturday, June 2nd National Trails Day

Leader: Mary Krueger

Project: Randolph Hill Trails

Saturday, July 21st

Leader: Chris Bishop

Project: Crescent Ridge Trail

Saturday, July 28th

Leader: Gail Wigler

Project: Ice Gulch Path

Saturday, August 11th

Leader: Al Sochard

Project: Howker Ridge Trail

Sunday, August 19th

Leaders: Irene Garvey and Todd Moore

Project: Castle Ravine Trail

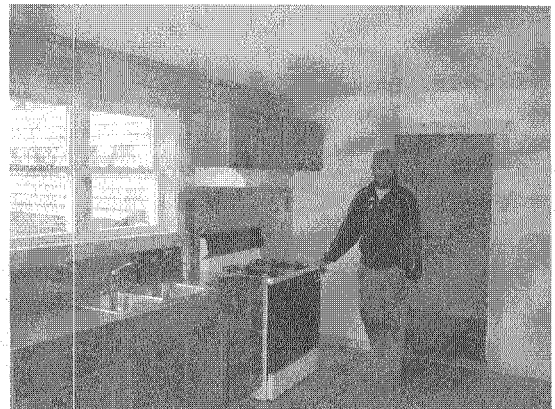
That's the RMC spring news. We sincerely hope that each of you reading this allows plenty of time this season to lace up your boots, step outside and enjoy our beautiful network of paths!

Around Stearns Lodge

Photos by Doug Mayer



Bowman Builders—Ray Cotnoir and Dave Fontaine



Camps Co-Chair—Derek "Storm" Schott



Construction Manager — Paul Cormier

On the Roof of the World

By Bob Kruszyna

We are camped at 10,000 feet on the world's highest desert. Technically, it is not considered a desert by scientific experts, but, with its barren, bleak, bituminous landscape, it sure seems like one to us - the whole area north of the Himalayas extending from Ladakh in India to Nepal, through Tibet to Sinkiang Province in China, onward to Mongolia, finally ending in Siberia. The so-called "roof of the world" is actually the cellar floor, where all the dirt, dust and dung end up.

Our tent is pitched in a barnyard in a village. The incessant wind picks up and mixes the microscopic dust particles from the sedimentary slag, dried animal excreta, and chaff from the recently harvested barley. It pervades all our belongings and, worse yet, it penetrates our nasal passages and lungs, causing coughing, snorting, congestion and silicosis. Our snot runs red. A flea-ridden mongrel dog has curled up outside, standing guard, more for the companionship than for the warmth. Do you really want to hear more about our trip?

Well, actually, it had its moments, if for no other reason than we were traveling in one of the world's more exotic places - in this case Nepal and Tibet. We have a penchant for such off-beat destinations *per se*. However, this time we had an additional purpose: to examine - at a superficial level to be sure - the culture of so-called "Tibetan Buddhism", which governs the way of life from Ladakh in northern India, across Mustang and the Himalayan regions of Nepal, and on to the apex in Lhasa, Tibet.

Recent history is relevant to what follows. In 1950, Communist China invaded and occupied Tibet, on the questionable pretext that Tibet had always been a Chinese fief - much the same argument China still uses regarding Taiwan. Why China would wish to add another several million destitute peasants to its own overwhelming numbers of the same is something of a mystery. Perhaps the Chinese government's aggressive expansionist policy - political, economic, territorial - is the reason. However, the real answer probably lies in the gold fields in the uninhabitable mountains of western Tibet, and the probability of significant oil and natural gas reserves in the favorable geology, although nothing has come of that premise so far. After a decade of fruitless diplomacy, in 1959 the Dalai Lama, both the "pope" of the Buddhist religion and also the secular "king" of Tibet was forced to flee into exile in India. From there, he continues his campaign to "Free Tibet", but the Chinese just wait for him to die so they can chose their own puppet Dalai Lama, as they al-

ready have several other important reincarnated lamas.

In the meantime, during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), the Chinese destroyed most of the monasteries and shrines so central to Tibetan life, with the goal of promoting "atheistic communism". In a notable exception Chou En Lai, the Chinese prime minister, sent his private militia to protect the Potala Palace, the Dalai Lama's residence and seat of government. Shamefully, all of our western, "human rights"-oriented governments stood by without a word of protest, as they still do today, refusing to recognize the Dalai Lama's government in exile. Without taking a stand on this particular situation, I wonder whether we should be supporting a return to theocracy in Tibet, when we have gone to great lengths to get rid of one in Afghanistan, are trying to prevent one in Iraq, and are trying to bring one down in Iran. On the other hand, anything that discomfits the Chinese in their push toward becoming a dominating world power is probably in our best interest.

Recently, the Chinese government has reversed itself somewhat regarding Tibet. It has recognized Tibet's attraction as a tourist destination, especially for those (like ourselves) who wish to visit the "last places" before they are spoiled. Alas, we were already too late. Tibet has become the latest "hot" destination and teems with tourists, a surprising number of them Chinese (now well-off because of our consumption of stuff Made in China). Many of the monasteries and other Buddhist sites destroyed in the Cultural Revolution have been rebuilt and restored in an approximation of their former state. In the process, the Chinese have created a sort of oriental Disneyland. In addition, during 50 years of occupation the country has become thoroughly Sinicized, especially the cities. Indeed, the Chinese government continues to move hundreds of thousands of Han Chinese into the country, aided by the recently completed railroad, in order to overwhelm the native population. It has used the same tactic in the Uighur Autonomous Republic (Sinkiang) with modest success. Thus the essence of the centuries-old Tibetan civilization is difficult to uncover.

Our tour, organized by the British adventure travel company Exodus, began in Kathmandu, Nepal, half-way around the world, which we reached after 40-odd hours *en route*. Not to mention the several security checks along the way, a couple of them coming close to a body-orifice search. Our group of 16 then flew

See "On the Roof", page 15 ...

"On the Roof", from page 15 ...

over the Himalaya to Gonggar airport, 90 km south of Lhasa (and the only airport in the country!). Traveling east along the Yarlung Tsangpo, Tibet's major river which eventually becomes the Brahmaputra in India, we hiked to a castle-monastery perched on a crag above the river. Purportedly the oldest building in Tibet, it reminded me of a castle on the Rhine. I remind you that we were now at an elevation of 11,000 feet, so the climb up to the castle was something of a puffer.

The next day, along with a sizable group of Chinese tourists, we crossed the river in an open, flat-bottomed barge propelled by an outboard motor and occasional poling over the sandbars. Traveling in the back of a truck, we drove to Samye monastery, the earliest monastery in Tibet, founded in 779 AD. Although it had been destroyed in the Cultural Revolution, it has been completely rebuilt, with four splendid chortens at the corners. A small group of monks was in residence. As the Chinese have relaxed their grip, they now permit, under close supervision, small companies of monks to live and study in the restored monasteries. Interestingly, the Chinese pay the wages of the monks in return for their taking care of the monasteries (and for collecting money for taking interior photographs). Unlike in Nepal and India however, there are no pictures of the Dalai Lama in Tibetan shrines.

This may be a good place to describe Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and shrines. They are rectangular in shape, stacked in two or more layers of diminishing size and often surrounded by a wall. Thus at once both a temple and a fort. Steps lead into an open portico where paintings or statues of the four protector deities are displayed. The eastern one is white-faced and plays a lute, the southern is blue and wields a sword, the west is red and holds a thunderbolt, and the north is yellow and rides a snow lion while displaying a banner of victory. Surely the temple inside is secure.

Well, maybe. One steps over a high lintel to enter the holy place itself - because evil spirits, having shorter legs, cannot get over it. At the rear of the principal chamber, like the altar in a Christian church, sits a large statue of the Buddha, often gilded, flanked by statues of future and past Buddhas, Bodhisattvas (saints), and perhaps of past lamas. Low benches and tables extend from the entrance toward the Buddha (at right angles to pews), where the monks sit and recite from the sutras (scriptures). Lay worshipers circulate in clockwise fashion around the central area reserved to the monks, prostrating themselves, reciting prayers, kissing or rubbing the inanimate feet of

the statues, and invariably leaving money to one or another deity.

There are many parallels with Roman Catholic churches and cathedrals. Larger shrines have several side chapels populated by statues of various Buddhist deities rather than by saints. One does not approach the Buddha directly, but circuitously, as one does not approach the altar directly. Candles of yak butter are purchased and lit to remember the departed, as are votive candles in Catholic churches. The clockwise circumambulation (*kora*) resembles the Stations of the Cross. But there is a major difference. Catholic cathedrals emphasize space, vastness, light (I am thinking in particular of Chartres). God is way up there in the dome or beyond. Meanwhile, the Tibetan Buddhist shrines are close, dark, to the point of claustrophobia. Big Buddha leans down on you, seemingly unforgiving but actually benignly.

Not unexpectedly, Lhasa proved something of a disappointment, especially after reading the accounts of Westerners who strove to reach it in the 19th and early years of the 20th Centuries, when it was truly the "last place". No skyscrapers, but it otherwise resembled Chinese cities we have visited - garish, pretentious, a tasteless production of the *parvenu*. Right in the center stands the Jokhang, a temple which is the spiritual heart of the country and the goal of pilgrims from everywhere. Many of them have been walking for years to reach it. Their fervor in worshiping was startling, given the effort the Chinese have expended in trying to suppress it. Surrounding the Jokhang is what is left of the old city, now another busy and fascinating eastern market. But a block away rise several Western-style hotels along with other tourist facilities. Although MacDonald's has not yet arrived, there are numerous restaurants serving Western food. There is even a pizza parlor! Only the huge bulk of the Potala Palace looming over the city reminds one of Tibetan culture.

We visited a few active monasteries on the outskirts of town. Invariably, they are sited at the end of a mountain valley up against the peaks and are reached by a torturous road. These protected locations were chosen in the past, when the monasteries controlled most of the country's wealth. Our visit to Sera monastery was timed to coincide with the weekly "disputation" session of the monks. They sit around in small groups and argue, often quite vehemently, over fine points of doctrine. It reminded me of the medieval argument about how many angels could dance on the head of a pin.

Editor's note: This article will be continued in the June issue.

Election Results

Submitted by Anne Kenison, Town Clerk

Selectman	Sara Glines
Treasurer	Connie Chaffee
Trustee of Trust Funds	Michael Sewick
Cemetery Trustee	'Jim' Baldwin
Board of Adjustment	Ted Wier
Auditor	Ted Wier
Tax Collector	Scott Robinson
Library Trustee	Sandy Wier
Planning Board	Arlene Eisenberg

June Issue

An article of historical significance contributed by Judy Hudson and described by Louis F. Cutter on "The Great Flood of 1927" will be presented. Please send summer activity information and items of interest to the Randolph community by May 15th to Alison Tomlinson on CD, DVD or disk at 204 Durand Rd., Randolph, NH 03593 or to our **new email address:** tree-home@ne.rr.com. Thank you.

Duck Race and River Festival 7-7-07

Would you like to: Be a sponsor? Help with the preparations? Help the day of the race? Call Nancy Penney 603-466-3867 or email brdacres@localnet.com

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